

the **SARATOGA**
Special



Year 12 • No. 35

SARATOGA'S DAILY NEWSPAPER ON THOROUGHBRED RACING

Sunday, September 2, 2012



Getting Served

To Honor And Serve
wins Gr. 1 Woodward

EMCEE TAKES FOREGO • ENTRIES & HANDICAPPING • DOMINUS THRIVES ON TURF

Tod Marks

Catalog News

KEENELAND September

Half-sister to Hip #94



CONTESTED Winner of the Test S.-G1

•• Stakes Horses

- 94 Half-sister CONTESTED wins the Test S.-G1
- 485 Full brother SHRILL, 3rd Don Bernhardt S.
Full sister CHEERY has two additional wins as well
- 692 Half-sister 3YO GRAVELLY BAY, 3rd Ontario Damsel S.
- 1334 Half-sister 2YO FUNFAIR wins Colleen S.
Two starts, two wins!
- 2227 Under the 2nd dam, STREET LIFE wins Curlin S.
- 2712 Half-sister PEACE PRESERVER, 2nd Desert Vixen S.

•• Winners Since the Catalog

- 267 Half-brother 3YO HANUMAN, winner
- 442 Full brother 3YO JUST FOR TODAY, winner
- 540 Full sister 2YO RUTHERFORD RD, winner
- 922 Half-sister CROSS, dam of
winner & TDN "Rising Star" 2YO SIGN
- 1177 Half-sister VOWEL, dam of winner 2YO NOUN
- 1987 Half-sister VISIT, dam of winner 2YO CUSTODY
- 2086 Half-sister PRINCESS CONSORT, dam of
winner 2YO WATERWAY RUN
- 2703 Half-sister 3YO TRESS, three consecutive wins
- 2865 Half-brother LIDERIS, winner



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here&there... at Saratoga



Tod Marks

The Road. Time to hit it.

WORTH REPEATING The Special's quotes from Saratoga

"Six, four and three days."

Jockey Javier Castellano, when asked the ages of his kids

"Send that to Mom."

**Joe Clancy, after Humberto Chavez took a photo of
The Special's editors Saturday morning**

"He taught me so much about this sport, I wouldn't be in the business if it
wasn't for a guy like him."

Owner Steve Laymon, about retired trainer Jimmy Picou

"It'll be graded next year."

**Owner Steve Laymon when asked if the
Riskaverse was a graded stakes.**

"She's able to rate in a different way. The first time I rode her she stumbled
really badly and was absolutely last and I waited, she exploded. It made me
confident this time because I worked her the last three works, she relaxed
for me better each time, it made me more confident, I knew what kind of
horse I had."

Javier Castellano, about Riskaverse winner Dayathespa

"The Special is a gem, and more people are starting to catch on – judging by
the lack of papers in the racks most afternoons, at any rate, I'm sure you and
your brother are ready for a break. I can't believe how you guys have grown
this thing. HUGE hours every day . . . Billy Fuccillo has nothing on you."

Reader Ray Swift

"I met people I'll never forget and heard stories that will stick with me for
the rest of my life. I made best friends and maybe a couple enemies but I
wouldn't trade anything for the experience I had."

Ryan Jones, about his summer with the Special

"When in doubt, bet Sheppard."

**Vinery's Steve Castagnola, after backing Cubist to
win the Jeffords Thursday**

"I'm blowing more than he is."

Trainer/exercise rider Dave Duggan, after a workout

"He might want to start sleeping with one eye open."

**Fay Donk, about her husband David, who
sent the lead pony back to Belmont**

"If you're breaking one off at the pole, you better have both hands on the
reins."

Assistant trainer Trish McLaughlin, about 21-year-old lead pony Zortman

"Park anywhere you want, eat anywhere you want . . ."

Assistant trainer Tristan Berry, on what Saratoga is like after Labor Day

"He is one physically imposing horse, and when he comes in the paddock
he's not meek."

**Trainer Steve Asmussen, as Tapizar
rumbled past on the main track Saturday**

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Tod Marks photo

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here&there...

Continued from
previous page



Connie Bush

Munchers. The grassy – and shady – spot by the loading chute is always popular with the horses – and riders.

LICENSE PLATES OF THE DAY

HOLYBULL, New York.

SARDEW92, New York. Saratoga Dew won eight of 11 starts in 1992.

NAMES OF THE DAY

Most Happy Fella, first race. How we feel at the end of the meet.

Relentless Road, fourth race. What we've been on for 35 issues of The Special.

Just Safe, fifth race. Everybody stay safe until next year.

Memories Made, seventh race. We made them. Thanks.

Set The Sail, ninth race. Set for Home.

WEATHER

Today: Partly cloudy. High, 80. Low, 54.
Monday: Partly cloudy. High, 78. Low, 65.
Tuesday: Who cares?



**Congratulations to Mary Lou Sargent and
Drew Bizzocco, who get married today at the track.**

JUST SAYIN'

*"She might be the speed,
if she's not in front, she'll
be laying right off it."*

– Trainer Shug McGaughey, about Hit It Rich – the
favorite for Monday's Glens Falls

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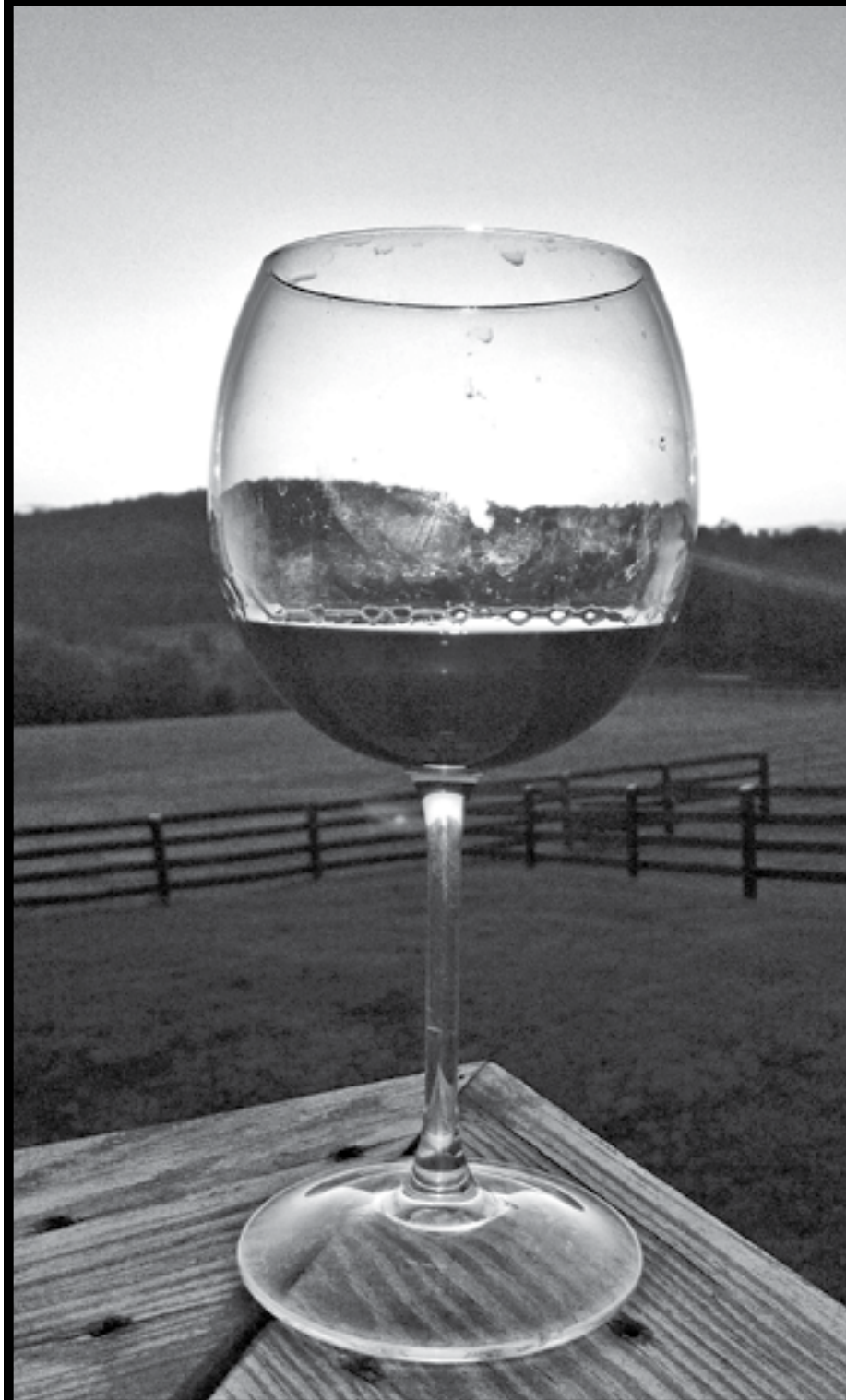
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PHOTO

of the day

Cheers

Photo by Taylor Elser



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The Chief... Day 35

*"Everybody says the game is no good. I say
get the leaderboard and I'll guarantee the first
10 on that leaderboard think the game's great.
First time I ever noticed that, a guy'd go to
California, he'd do good, come back, 'how was
it?' 'Jesus, man, that's the best place in the
world.' Go back the next year, didn't win any
races, come back, 'how was it?' 'I ain't going
back to that damn place again.' Wherever
you do good, that's where it's at. People say,
'How do you it every day?' When you get
older you don't think about not doing it
every day."*

– Trainer Allen Jerkens



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Service Plan

To Honor And Serve returns with Gr. 1 win

BY SEAN CLANCY

Bill Mott paused, as only he can, seconds ticked past, then he looked up and summed up the moment. "He came back today," Mott said. "He came back today."

Live Oak Plantation's To Honor And Serve came back from a two-race losing streak to fend off favorite Mucho Macho Man in Saturday's Grade 1 Woodward Stakes. John Velazquez engineered another perfect trip, placing To Honor And Serve outside in third before getting first run on Mucho Macho Man and staving off the Suburban winner in the final furlong to win by a neck. The 4-year-old bay son of Bernardini finished 9 furlongs in 1:48.56.

Two races after the Woodward, Mott walked from the trustees room to the paddock gate by the saddling stalls. It's a five-minute walk. It took Mott eight weeks.

All the way back to when To Honor And Serve disappointed in the Suburban, fading 7 1/2 lengths behind Mucho Macho Man. To Honor And Serve was



Dave Harmon

To Honor And Serve (right) denies Mucho Macho Man before the finish of Saturday's Woodward.

nervous in the paddock, flat on the track and lost his second consecutive race. The loss made Mott question his next move. Originally designed as a prep for the Whitney, the Suburban provided a pot hole instead.

With the Whitney still in mind, Mott breezed To Honor And Serve 13 days after the Suburban. He went a half-mile in 49 4/5 seconds. He worked fine. But, fine doesn't win the Whitney.

"We worked him because we were still thinking Whitney, 'Let's give him a little breeze and see how he goes.' Watching him, we didn't think he was here. It wasn't bad, but looking at the horse, watching the

horse around the barn, he'll tell you when he's doing good," Mott said. "He'll look away from the feed tub, he's not one that eats the bottom of the feed tub out. You take Ron The Greek and Flat Out, they go right to the bottom and they've got teeth marks on the bottom of the tub."

With 15 days until the Whitney, Mott called a time-out.

"I tried to put it out of my mind, as far as being so hyped up, then I said, 'Look, you've got to take a step backward and regroup.' We had run in the Suburban

See **WOODWARD** page 7 ►

Woodward —

■ Continued from page 6

to make sure we were going to be tight enough to run in the Whitney, I wanted a prep race," Mott said. "Then, we got our prep race, but it was not the right one. It was bad. He did not run well, so then I didn't want to step back into a Grade 1 race off of that, until I see some change in the horse."

The half-mile breeze 13 days after the Suburban and 15 days before the Whitney provided no change. Mott punted, sending To Honor And Serve to Saratoga and jogging him for a week. To Honor And Serve jogged with the lead pony, designed to settle him down and refuel the machine. After a week of jogging, he began light gallops, starting with the pony and gradually building back up to the horse who had won seven races, including the Remsen, Nashua, Pennsylvania Derby, Cigar Mile and Westchester.

To Honor And Serve returned to the work tab with an easy half in 48 3/5 seconds Aug. 7.

"We gave him an easy three weeks or a month, we kept him in training, kept him feeling good, kept him going, then we got four weeks out and started our normal breeze pattern. We put that first breeze into him and you could see, he picked his head up," Mott said.

"We could tell when we breezed him the first time, we took him to the track the next day and did a little jog with him and you could see he was revved back up, then we just went through our normal program."



Tod Marks

to Honor And Serve (second from left) breaks with the pack in the Woodward.

Three more breezes followed, all on the training track, posting a bullet (best of seven) work Aug. 19. The breezes seemed to work as To Honor And Serve trained efficiently and confidently.

Mott replaced Jose Lezcano with John Velazquez and entered the \$575,000 yearling in the Woodward.

To Honor And Serve broke well from stall 6 and Velazquez nudged him to take a stalking spot outside longshots Rule and Trickmeister. Mike Smith placed Mucho Macho Man inside in fourth as last year's Travers winner Stay Thirsty found a spot outside in fifth. Gourmet Dinner relaxed in sixth as Cease trailed.

Rule posted a quarter mile in 23.70 and a half in 47.45. Into the turn, Velazquez cued To Honor And Serve to pass Trickmeister as Stay Thirsty ranged up on the outside of Mucho Man Man, confining him on the inside at a crucial moment. Nearing the quarter pole, To Honor And Serve rolled past Rule as Mucho Macho Man unearthed himself inside Trickmeister and took aim on the second choice. Past the eighth pole, Mucho Macho Man lapped on To Honor And Serve, getting his nose in front for a stride or two before Velazquez switched his whip to his left hand and forced To Honor And Serve to Mucho Macho

Man's shoulder. To Honor And Serve dug in, drifting right in the final strides but winning by a definitive neck.

Mott's only instructions to Velazquez were to avoid "a wrestling match" and he did. To Honor And Serve stalked comfortably, keeping tabs on the leaders and waiting for a cue.

"I just wanted to get through the first part of the race where I was comfortable, without fighting him too much," Velazquez said. "He was in the bridle, not rank, perfect, perfect. I thought he was going to gallop, open up when I asked him. We came to the quarter pole and he was still in hands, but he got to the lead and he started waiting. He got there and his ears went up, his head went up. He scared me."

Velazquez knew Mucho Macho Man was inside turning for home, then lost track of the favorite until glancing back in the stretch.

"Rule is in front, I'm not worried about him," Velazquez said. "I'm worried about the horse coming from behind me. I didn't know where he was. He was inside, then I never saw him. When he came out I was looking around and there he was."

To Honor And Serve saw the challenge too, and responded — holding Mucho Macho Man safe.

The winner improved his record to eight wins from 15 starts for more than \$1.7 million in earnings. Most importantly, he snapped a two-race losing streak that had Mott and others wondering.

"There's been high expectations for him from the beginning, so we were all

See **WOODWARD** page 8 ►

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Woodward —

Continued from page 7

a little disheartened, people were getting a little nervous,” Mott said. “They see you get beat two times in a row, although they were good races and I think we had reasons for it to happen, but people start to wonder, ‘Is he going to come back?’ I felt like there was no reason for him not to come back.”

Mott provided a flurry of reasons for the turnaround — skipping the Whitney, cool weather, outside post, great trip — but he credited the change in his training for the biggest impact. A week of jogging with the pony, then slowly building back to regular gallops (in draw reins) and breezes on the training track made the difference.

“I jogged him for a week and then got him back under control galloping,”

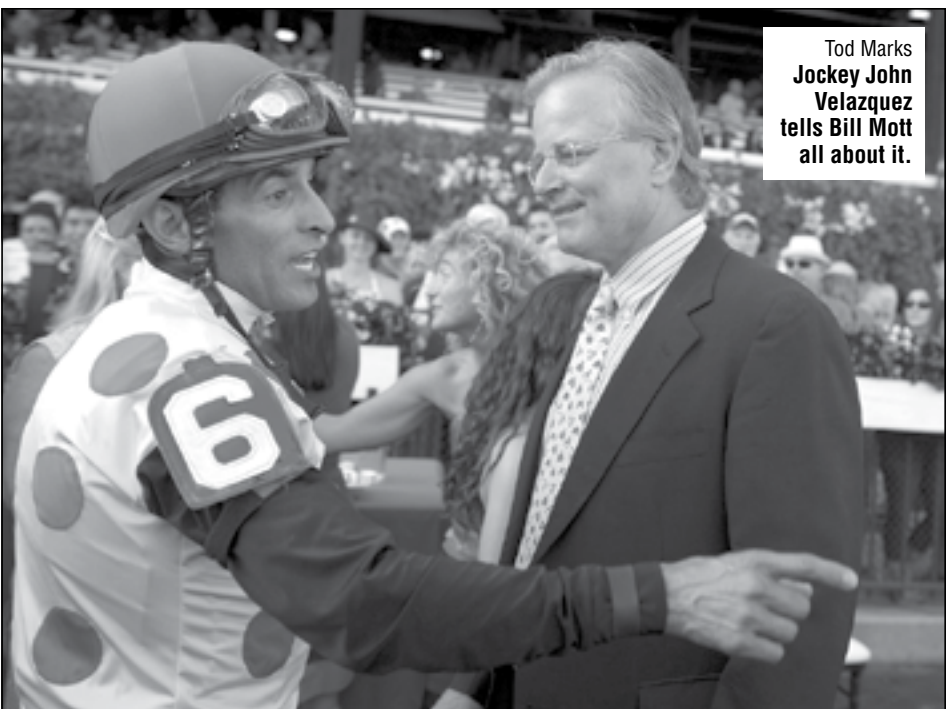
Mott said. “Every day, you jog him a mile the right way with the pony, then turn him loose and he’s under control, you can keep him at 16s, it’s about all you can do to hold him slower than a two-minute lick. Sometimes it’s better if you can back off, we just eased him into it.”

Mott used an old trick to cajole To Honor And Serve to gallop in control.

“We loped him with the pony, slowly turning him loose, let him hobby horse off,” Mott said. “His trick when he gets aggressive, he’ll cock his head, you pull on him and he goes (out), a lot of times you take those horses with the pony and you can keep them straight, then you let them ease off and they’re straight instead of cocked.”

Straight into the Woodward winner’s circle.

Additional reporting
by Joe Clancy.



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4 Cap The Moment 8 4 Inish Law 8/5 4 Crescent's Mon 15

5 Fortitude 8 5 Cinnamon Beach 12 5 Sea Gaze 12

6 Warrior Up 30 6 Winaholic 5/2 6 Even Frisky 12

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13 All

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Emcee shouts way to sprint win, fourth Spa Gr. 1 for McLaughlin

BY JOE AND SEAN CLANCY

FOREGO STAKES RECAP

“Yesssss.” Kieran McLaughlin looked up and pumped his fist. “Un-be-liev-able,” he said, walking to the winner’s circle.

Neal McLaughlin was more introspective, “I saw somebody come up the rail and I was like, ‘Oh no, it’s the Travers all over again.’”

Yes, for sure. Unbelievable, no doubt. And nothing like the Travers.

Team McLaughlin and Godolphin won their fourth Grade 1 stakes at the meet, taking Saturday’s Forego with Emcee, who ran down Jersey Town (the horse Neal saw get through on the rail) in the stretch to win by 4 1/2 lengths. Hamazing Destiny rallied late to catch Jersey Town by a neck for second. The winner covered 7 furlongs in 1:21 and won his third race of 2012 while continuing his ascension.

The 4-year-old son of Unbridled’s Song didn’t race until September of his 3-year-old season, winning a Belmont maiden easily. He added the al-

lowance condition next out in February at Gulstream, then jumped into the deep end – finishing third in the Grade 3 Tom Fool and fourth in the Grade 1 Carter at Aqueduct. He dominated another allowance at Belmont in May, then finished a game third in the Grade 1 Vanderbilt here Aug. 5 going 6 furlongs.

Stretch another furlong for the Forego, Emcee put his stalking tactics to good use – sitting in second outside early leader Pacific Ocean through a quarter-mile in 22.64 and a half in 45.38 seconds. When Jersey Town charged through a rail opening at the top of the stretch, Alan Garcia sat still on Emcee. A length in front briefly, Jersey Town couldn’t withstand Emcee’s final furlong as the winner swept past to win his first stakes. Caught late in the Vanderbilt, Emcee did the catching in the Forego.



Tod Marks

See **FOREGO** page 13 ▶

Emcee roars to the finish line with a Grade 1 score in Saturday’s Forego.

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GOLDEN TICKET

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 - \$50K Maryland Million Starter Handicap** Three-year-olds & up who have started for a claiming price of \$12,500 or less since October 1, 2011, 1 mi. This is a Sweepstakes.
 - \$50K Maryland Million Distaff Starter Handicap** Fillies and mares, 3-year-olds & up, who have started for a claiming price of \$12,500 or less since October 1, 2011, 1 mi. This is a Sweepstakes.
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| Gyrfalcon (GB) | Secret Firm |
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| Love of Money | Two Punch |
| Louis Quatorze | Unbridled Jet |
| Makin Money | Unbridled Mate |
| Malibu Moon | Valley Crossing |
| Marciano | Waquoit |
| McKendree | Wayne County (Ire) |
| Meadow Monster | Who’s Your Daddy |
| Medallist | Yarrow Brae |



Emcee runs away from Hamazing Destiny and Jersey Town to win the Forego.

Tod Marks

Forego —

■ Continued from page 10

"The last time he ran, the worst part of the track was inside, he was trying hard, but in this situation he was so different," said the jockey. "He was outside, comfortable, a very different feeling."

Garcia saw Jersey Town's move from two paths to the outside, but didn't fret.

"I saw him inside but I was pretty comfortable out there," he said. "His horse stayed inside, and really kicked. I thought if my horse was good enough, he should be able to get there turning for home. When my horse kicked, it felt like he was going to break the reins — that's a great feeling at that point."

The reins held, Emcee charged and gave Godolphin an exclamation point on the meet — joining Questing (Coaching Club and Alabama) and Alpha (Travers) as a Grade 1 winner at Saratoga 2012. Bred by Darley, Emcee made his first two starts in those silks before moving to Godolphin blue.

"It begins and ends with the horses," said Darley's Jimmy Bell. "Godolphin has some great horses, older horses, they give them plenty of time and patience and Kiaran and his team have done a super job, we've circled a few spots and hit the bullseye, we've been lucky. Again, we've got some nice horses that fit the right spots. You like to dream, you like to dream."

Nobody goes to Saratoga thinking about winning four Grade 1 stakes, but Godolphin made it reality — thanks in part to some creative thinking and the private training facility at Greentree adjacent to the Saratoga backstretch. The McLaughlin horses have access to a synthetic training track, turnout space, peace, quiet, air, flexibility.

"Greentree has been unbelievable for so many horses," said Kiaran. "Neal is back there, he's done a great job in all the decision making, this horse will walk the stall a little, we adjusted, put him in a little paddock, a round pen, we train him the wrong way, his last work was the wrong way. He's OK on the



Tod Marks

Kiaran (left) and Neal McLaughlin lead Emcee toward the winner's circle.

main track but that track is so kind, so forgiving, it's just a plus."

Emcee was fast from the start, rattling through 6 furlongs in 1:09 3/5 in his debut and running 7 furlongs in 1:20 4/5 in his second start. At Belmont on Kentucky Derby Day, he dusted a two-other-than going 7 furlongs. Away three months, he battled for the

lead in the Vanderbilt through fast fractions, and lost by a half-length.

"We've always liked him, he deserves it," Kiaran said. "He ran a huge race on Derby Day, we look at all the numbers, that's why we gave him time, people wondered where he went, we just wanted to give him time."

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Cool Turf

Dominus goes to grass, romps in Gr. 2

BY JOE AND SEAN CLANCY

Last year, Julien Leparoux and Dominus the dirt horse won the Dwyer, finished third in the Jim Dandy and fourth in the King's Bishop so when the jockey got aboard Dominus the turf horse Saturday the plan was pretty simple.

"Before the race, on paper, if you looked there was no one that could be with him in front," said Leparoux. "I knew I was going to be in front and my job was to try and make him go as slow as possible."

Job well done.

In his turf debut, Dominus lulled five other horses to sleep and led at every inch of the Grade 2 Bernard Baruch – kicking away from favorite Data Link late to win by 1 1/4 lengths for George Bolton, Stonestreet Stable and Spendthrift Farm. The winner covered 1 1/16 miles in 1:40.32 to secure his fourth career win and second in as many starts since moving to Todd Pletcher's barn this spring.

As Leparoux put it, tactically the race fell into Dominus' feed tub. He ate up.

The son of Smart Strike bounded to the front at the start, leaning in a little and brushing with Queen'splatekitten while getting up to speed. The first quarter-mile went in 24.29 seconds as Leparoux worked to slow his horse. Two lengths clear on the backside, Dominus got a half-mile 48.63 seconds



Tod Marks

Dominus (right) strides clear early in the Bernard Baruch.

and was followed by Guys Reward, Data Link and Queen'splatekitten. Guys Reward closed it up to a length on the turn but was under pressure. Behind him, Data Link tried to launch a bid three wide as 6 furlongs went in 1:12.26. Leparoux gave Dominus a little more rein, hugged the corner and ended the race – passing the mile mark in 1:34.49 and building a clear lead in mid-stretch. Data Link mounted a bid, but couldn't cut into the margin late. Late-arriving Sky Blazer, who hopped at the start and spotted the field 5 lengths early, claimed third.

Leparoux credited the late energy to the early relaxation.

"He dropped the bit the whole way around there – a very, very relaxed horse," he said. "With this kind of horse you just try to be a passenger, don't rush him from the gate and if you don't rush him from the gate the first part of the race should be relaxed. You try to stay relaxed for as long as you can. The first part is more important than the last with a horse like that."

See **BARUCH** page 15 ►

Baruch —

■ Continued from page 14

Dominus made five starts for Steve Asmussen last year, starting with a maiden win at Santa Anita in March and then four stakes tries – a second in the Derby Trial at Churchill Downs, the Dwyer win, the Jim Dandy and the King's Bishop. The Virginia-bred hit the shelf until showing up in Pletcher's barn in late May.

"He was pretty far along," Pletcher said. "The horse trained very well, one

thing led to another, next thing you know we're at Saratoga, looking for a spot. With a horse like him, you just try to stay out of his way."

Dominus made his debut for Pletcher in a 7-furlong allowance Aug. 4, winning easily. Without any definitive targets, the trainer decided to try him on the turf and see if that would open up the condition book.

Dominus breezed a half-mile on the Oklahoma turf in 47 seconds Aug. 27, making the Bernard Baruch the obvious target. A little pedigree didn't hurt. His dam, Cuando, is by Lord At War

and won stakes on the turf. Cuando's half-sister, multiple Grade 1 turf winner Honey Ryder, earned \$2.7 million for Pletcher and Glencrest Farm.

"They had told me that Ian Brennan had breezed him on the turf in Ocala and he breezed really well, so that was an option. He ran well on the dirt and we were waiting around for maybe the Kelso on September 29, that seemed like a long way away, so I said you know what, let me just breeze him on the grass, see what he does. Thankfully, I nominated him to the Bernard Baruch in case something like that happened,

he worked great and there we go. It was a pretty obvious play."

When entries were drawn, it was even more obvious.

"No speed. I really like this," said Pletcher when asked his first reaction to the race.

Leparoux agreed and put the plan in motion once the gates opened.

"I am a passenger, trying to just be a passenger, but you have to be as cool as him," said the jockey. "To relax your horse, you've got to be relaxed yourself. You cannot be tense and expect your horse to be relaxed."



Tod Marks

Dominus draws off from Data Link late in the Bernard Baruch.



Tod Marks

Dominus jogs back to the winner's circle after the Grade 2 victory.

The defining moment . . .

"My dad is a 5th generation trainer and my mom managed the farm. I was 14 when she started New Vocations. A trailer arrived to drop off a horse at our farm and it had several nice Thoroughbreds on board. My mom asked the shipper where the others were going. He told her they were freebie Thoroughbreds going to an auction and then probably to slaughter, my mom was horrified. That was her defining moment and thus New Vocations was born in 1992. The first year we took in 25 Thoroughbreds. Last year, we placed 429 horses, and that is just a drop in the bucket compared to how many need our service."

— Anna Ford, New Vocations



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SATURDAY'S SARATOGA RESULTS

Saturday September 01.

FIRST \$87,000, ALLOWANCE, 3 YO'S & UP, 1M

9	Channel Lady	J. Castellano	\$24.40	\$10.40	\$7.70
10	Off Limits	J. Alvarado		\$10.60	\$8.40
3	Scenario Analysis	E. Castro			\$5.80

Ch Filly 2009, by English Channel - Queen Supreme by King of Kings (IRE)
Owner: Scatuorchio, James, T.. Trainer: Todd Pletcher.
Breeder: Kaygar Stable, Wayne Morris, BluegrassHall, LLC & James Sc (KY).
Late Scratches: Thunderous Lady, Zultanite
Time: 1:35.04
Exacta (9-10), \$235.50; Superfecta (9-10-3-11), \$8,872.00; Trifecta (9-10-3), \$2,608.00

SECOND \$37,000, CLAIMING \$20,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M

4	Sam's Buck	C. Velasquez	\$22.00	\$8.80	\$6.00
12	Ambit	I. Ortiz, Jr.		\$5.80	\$4.50
5	Chilton	J. Castellano			\$9.50

B Gelding 2008, by Roaring Fever - Buck Mountain by Prosper Fager
Owner: Jameson, Gerardus, S.. Trainer: George Weaver.
Breeder: Dr. Gerardus S. Jameson (NY).
Late Scratches: Half Lucky, Truman's Commander, Not Today, Acadian Blues, Springcourt
Claimed: Winter Now claimed by VIP Stable for \$20,000, Knock Rock claimed by Bucci, Joseph for \$20,000
Time: 1:41.52
Daily Double (9-4), \$317.50; Exacta (4-12), \$137.00; Quinella (4-12), \$75.00; Superfecta (4-12-5-6), \$9,057.00; Trifecta (4-12-5), \$2,046.00

THIRD \$37,000, CLAIMING \$20,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 6F

4	Greeley's Law	E. Prado	\$110.00	\$36.00	\$15.00
2	Starforday	R. Maragh		\$7.40	\$4.70
8	Overextended	A. Garcia			\$5.10

Ch Gelding 2008, by Greeley's Galaxy - Kate's Law by Corporate Report
Owner: Mountain Top Racing Stable. Trainer: Glenn DiSanto.
Breeder: Susan Ann Vitro (NY).
Late Scratches: Runawayeightyfour
Claimed: Crown the Chief claimed by Repole Stable for \$20,000, Flying Pegasus claimed by Trackmen Golf Club Stable (Bill Hirsch) for \$20,000
Time: 1:10.15
Daily Double (4-4), \$919.00; Exacta (4-2), \$828.00; Superfecta (4-2-8-10), \$43,842.00; Trifecta (4-2-8), \$6,292.00; Pic 3 (9-4-4), \$32,031.00

FOURTH \$85,000, MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M

1	Lily the Pink	J. Alvarado	\$7.40	\$4.20	\$3.00
12	Divine Luck	J. Velazquez		\$10.00	\$6.60
10	Cerce Cay	D. Cohen			\$8.40

Ch Filly 2008, by Rahy - Sarie Marais by Unbridled
Owner: Chandler, Dr. John, A.. Trainer: William Mott.
Breeder: Dr. John A Chandler (KY).
Time: 1:41.23
Daily Double (4-1), \$628.00; Exacta (1-12), \$84.50; Quinella (1-12), \$45.40; Superfecta (1-12-10-9), \$22,025.00; Trifecta (1-12-10), \$695.00; Pic 3 (4-4-1), \$6,640.00

FIFTH \$85,000, AOC \$50,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 6F

8	Hillswick	R. Dominguez	\$4.40	\$2.90	\$2.20
1A	Isthmus	J. Rosario		\$5.90	\$3.70
3	Sam Sparkle	I. Ortiz, Jr.			\$3.40

B Gelding 2006, by Grand Slam - Up an Eighth by Ferdinand
Owner: Winning Move Stable and Jacobson, David.
Trainer: David Jacobson. Breeder: Eugene Melnyk (KY).
Late Scratches: Seniors Pride
Claimed: Hillswick claimed by Dubb, Michael for \$50,000, Isthmus claimed by Johnson, R. Larry for \$50,000, Be Bullish claimed by Dunn, Christopher T. for \$50,000, Avenging Spirit claimed by Repole Stable for \$50,000
Time: 1:09.63
Daily Double (1-8), \$19.80; Exacta (8-1), \$30.20; Superfecta (8-1-3-5), \$402.00; Trifecta (8-1-3), \$99.00; Pic 3 (4-1-8), \$3,510.00; Pic 4 (4-4-1-8), \$34,131.00

SIXTH \$39,000, CLAIMING \$25,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 6 1/2F

13	Devoted Wildcat	J. Rosario	\$10.00	\$5.50	\$3.60
9	Kid Wando	I. Ortiz, Jr.		\$10.60	\$5.60
6	A Boy Named Em	R. Dominguez			\$2.90

B Gelding 2009, by Forest Wildcat - Devotedness by Anet
Owner: Funky Munky Stable LLC. Trainer: Gary Gullo.
Breeder: Donald R. Dizney (KY).
Late Scratches: Rockstar Life, Flying Masster, Turnofthecat
Claimed: Devoted Wildcat claimed by Brewster, Clark O. for \$25,000, A Boy Named Em claimed by Swilcan Stable LLC for \$25,000, Willy Pay claimed by Epona Racing Stable for \$25,000, Bay Park Boy claimed by My Purple Haze Stables for \$25,000, P J's Magical Wink claimed by Cunningham, Marty for \$25,000
Time: 1:16.83
Daily Double (8-13), \$34.00; Exacta (13-9), \$84.00; Superfecta (13-9-6-7), \$935.00; Trifecta (13-9-6), \$263.50; Pic 3 (1-8-13), \$208.50

SEVENTH \$80,000, MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 2 YO, 7F

6	Micromanage	J. Castellano	\$13.60	\$6.80	\$3.50
7	Apex	J. Alvarado		\$4.10	\$2.50
2	Gulfport	R. Dominguez			\$2.50

B Colt 2010, by Medaglia d'Oro - Catnip by Flying Paster
Owner: Repole Stable. Trainer: Todd Pletcher.
Breeder: Fiona Craig & Dermot Cantillon (KY).
Late Scratches: Royal Art, Overwhelming, Favor Factor, Casino Day
Time: 1:23.01
Daily Double (13-6), \$68.50; Exacta (6-7), \$57.00; Superfecta (6-7-2-1), \$447.00; Trifecta (6-7-2), \$187.50; Pic 3 (8-13-6), \$336.00

EIGHTH \$250,000, STAKES - BERNARD BARUCH H., 3 & UP, 1 1/16M

4	Dominus	J. Leparoux	\$5.70	\$2.90	\$2.50
1	Data Link	J. Velazquez		\$2.60	\$2.10
6	Sky Blazer	R. Napravnik			\$3.40

Dk B/ Br Ridgling 2008, by Smart Strike - Cuando by Lord At War (ARG)
Owner: Bolton, George, Stonestreet Stables and Spendthrift Farm.
Trainer: Todd Pletcher. Breeder: Edward P. Evans (VA).
Late Scratches: Crimson China, Alma d'Oro
Time: 1:40.32
Daily Double (6-4), \$39.20; Exacta (4-1), \$12.80; Superfecta (4-1-6-5), \$125.00; Trifecta (4-1-6), \$50.00; Pic 3 (13-6-4), \$184.50

NINTH \$500,000, STAKES - FOREGO S., 3 YO'S & UP, 7F

6	Emcee	A. Garcia	\$5.10	\$3.70	\$2.90
8	Hamazing Destiny	R. Maragh		\$12.00	\$5.70
1	Jersey Town	E. Prado			\$4.80

Dk B/ Br Colt 2008, by Unbridled's Song - Surf Club by Ocean Crest
Owner: Godolphin Racing LLC. Trainer: Kiaran McLaughlin.
Breeder: Darley (KY).
Late Scratches: Shackelford
Time: 1:21
Daily Double (4-6), \$16.60; Exacta (6-8), \$65.00; Superfecta (6-8-1-7), \$1,807.00; Trifecta (6-8-1), \$405.00; Pic 3 (6-4-6), \$115.50

TENTH \$750,000, STAKES - WOODWARD S., 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

6	To Honor and Serve	J. Velazquez	\$9.30	\$3.60	\$2.60
3	Mucho Macho Man	M. Smith		\$2.50	\$2.10
7	Cease	J. Rosario			\$2.90

B Colt 2008, by Bernardini - Pilfer by Deputy Minister
Owner: Live Oak Plantation. Trainer: William Mott.
Breeder: Twin Creeks Farm, Larry Byer & RanchoSan Miguel (KY).
Time: 1:48.56
Daily Double (6-6), \$27.60; Exacta (6-3), \$22.40; Superfecta (6-3-7-4), \$349.00; Trifecta (6-3-7), \$88.00; Pic 3 (4-6-6), \$62.00

ELEVENTH \$62,000, NY-BRED ALLOWANCE, 3 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F

10	Neatie the Cat	J. Lezcano	\$5.50	\$4.30	\$3.30
11	Western Tryst	I. Ortiz, Jr.		\$11.40	\$6.80
6	Petey Cramer	J. Castellano			\$5.70

Dk B/ Br Gelding 2009, by Tale of the Cat - Neatie by Alydeed
Owner: Anstu Stables, Inc.. Trainer: Eddie Kenneally.
Breeder: Anstu Farm LLC (NY).
Late Scratches: Stonecoldsteamer, Charlie's Punch, N. F.'s Destiny, Cybertron
Time: 1:02.13
Daily Double (6-10), \$28.00; Exacta (10-11), \$58.50; Trifecta (10-11-6), \$500.00; Pic 3 (6-6-10), \$104.00; Place Pix Nine (1/4/6-1/6/8-3/6/7-10), \$18.40

TWELFTH \$65,000, NY-BRED MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 3 & UP, 1 1/16M

1	A New York Phillie	W. Garcia	\$74.50	\$22.80	\$10.80
6	Madame Johar	J. Leparoux		\$4.10	\$3.00
9	Mela Dramatically	R. Maragh			\$4.40


Ch Filly 2008, by Borrego - Anyplace Anytime by Langfuhr
Owner: Smith Ridge Stables. Trainer: Rodrigo Ubillo.
Breeder: Smith Ridge Stables, LLC & Dennis Foster (NY).
Late Scratches: Sugar Beach, Pennymine, Fujiana, It's Your Dime
Time: 1:43.24
Daily Double (10-1), \$252.00; Exacta (1-6), \$240.50; Superfecta (1-6-9-10), \$5,223.00; Trifecta (1-6-9), \$1,208.00; Pic 3 (6-10-1), \$1,007.00; Pic 4 (6-6-10-1), \$6,973.00; Pic 6 (6-4-6-6-10-1), \$415.00; Pic 6 (6-4-6-6-10-1), \$155,787.00

Attendance: 22,475
On Track Handle: 4,466,564
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Inter-State Handle: 17,631,022


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3 Greeley's Law



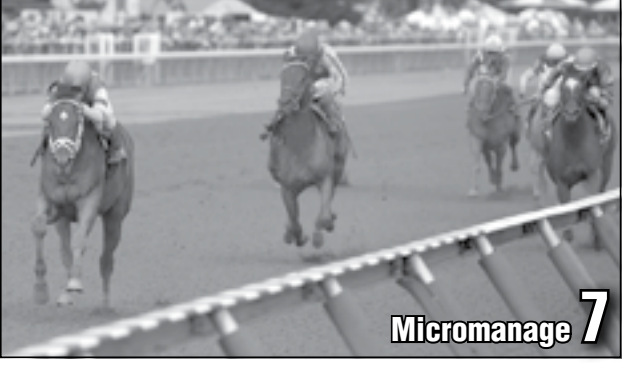
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5 Hillswick




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11 Neatie the Cat



12 A New York Phillie

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Public Syndicate Groups - Stakes Stats for 2012				
	Stakes Wins	Stakes Winners	Graded Stakes Wins	Individual Gr. Winners
Team Valor International	10	7	5	4
Eclipse TB Partners	5	4	2	1
Pinnacle Racing	4	2	3	2
Peachtree	3	3	2	2
Starlight	3	3	2	2
Dream Team Stable	2	2	1	1
Donegal Racing	1	1	1	1
Class Racing	1	1	1	1
Let's Go Stable	1	1	1	1
Thoroughbred Legends	1	1	1	1
West Point	1	1	1	1
Three Chimneys	1	1	0	0
Dogwood	1	1	0	0
IEAH	1	1	0	0
Live Your Dreams	1	1	0	0
Majestic Racing	1	1	0	0
Summit Racing	1	1	0	0
Blinkers On	1	1	0	0
Bongo	0	0	0	0
Centennial	0	0	0	0
Fantasy Lane Stable	0	0	0	0
Funky Monkey Stable	0	0	0	0
Magdalena Racing	0	0	0	0
Parting Glass Racing	0	0	0	0
Sackatoga Stable	0	0	0	0
Sovereign	0	0	0	0
Starview	0	0	0	0
Thoroughbred Futures	0	0	0	0

Source: TVI statistician Kathleen Jones, from reports from Bloodstock Journal and TDN. Stats are current through August 28, 2012.

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THE SARATOGA SPECIAL

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2012

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2012

THE SARATOGA SPECIAL

17

Longshot Saturday

Greeley's Law (\$110) leads parade of big numbers

BY SEAN CLANCY

Upsets were the name of Saturday's game. They came early, late and often and none were bigger than 54-1 shot Greeley's Law in the third, a \$20,000 conditioned claimer.

The 4-year-old was living up to his long odds in the early going of the 6-furlong run, sitting seventh after a quarter-mile and sixth after a 45.52-second half. Trainer Glenn DiSanto's gelding didn't start his unlikely run to the wire until they neared the finish, at which point he moved to the front of a tight group.

Greeley's Law ended up a winner by a neck over Starforaday, who was just a nose in front of Overextended.

For jockey Edgar Prado, it was just one of those days.

"The horse got lucky. He ran a tough race. I rode him the way I was supposed to and gave him a chance," Prado said. "We saved ground and I bided my time, but I got a nice kick when I really asked him."

The winner paid \$110.



Dave Harmon

Greeley's Law (blinkers) gets up to win Saturday's third at 54-1 for trainer Glenn DiSanto.

• If the third was the upset of the day, then the first two races were the ones that set the tone. The day kicked off with 11-1 shot Channel Lady winning for trainer Todd Pletcher and owner James Scatuorchio.

Similarly to Greeley's Law, the homebred didn't break particularly well near the outside and sat behind the front-runners before taking over by a length in the stretch. The 3-year-old daughter of English Channel won her second straight start, and first since January, by 2 lengths over 10-1 Off Limits, finishing the 1-mile turf allowance in 1:35.04.

The longshot luck continued into the second, when 10-1 Sam's Buck got trainer George Weaver his 11th win of the meet in a close \$20,000 claimer. The gelding also waited his turn en route to his second victory

in three starts at the meet, which included his maiden win July 21.

The 4-year-old made his move at the finish and won the 1 1/16-mile turf race by a head over Ambit. Chilton was a neck back in third at 19-1.

The win has Weaver in fourth place in the trainer standings, one behind Steve Asmussen for third.

• The card ended as it began when 36-1 A New York Phillie scored for trainer Rodrigo Ubillo in the 12th, a turf race for New York-bred maidens.

The filly, with just three thirds to her credit, picked up her maiden win in her 17th career start before a stunned crowd.

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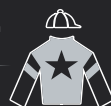
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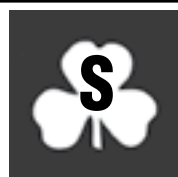


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Not even Ubillo saw this one coming. “I was screaming at the finish,” the trainer said. Ubillo was within his rights to scream as loud as he wanted after the 4-year-old’s trip. She started well from the second post and let the early front-runners burn out as she progressed. A New York Phillie appeared poised to start pulling away in the stretch, but favored Madame Johar wouldn’t go easily, pushing Ubillo’s filly to the wire,



A New York Phillie (1) charges to a win in the 12th for trainer Rodrigo Ubillo.

Dave Harmon

See SATURDAY page 23 ►

but ultimately falling short by a nose. Mela Dramatically was a half-length back in third. “I couldn’t tell there. It was tight and I thought we might be in trouble, but I saw her cross the wire and I was happy, to say the least,” Ubillo said. The trainer stuck around afterward as the track emptied out to watch the replay on the big board. The screaming subsided and all he could do was smile. Apprentice Wilmer Garcia extended his longshot reputation, guiding the daughter of Borrego home for his 11th victory of the meet – all but one paying double digits.

- The fourth was the first of the day that didn’t feature an upset. It had a fine storyline though, as 5-2 favorite Lily the Pink finally broke her maiden after six seconds in 10 previous career starts for trainer Bill Mott. It wasn’t looking like the filly’s day as she sat eighth in the 11-horse field through the three-quarter mark. But that’s when John Chandler’s homebred began showing signs of life, rallying to fourth at the stretch in a tight pack. The 4-year-old saved her best for last and ended up in a photo finish with Shug McGaughey’s Divine Luck, winning the 1 1/16 mile turf race in 1:41.23. “She got bounced around a little bit and it worked out for her,” Mott said. “Maybe she needed a rough trip to win.” It was the kind of ride that had jockey Junior Alvarado shaking his head about all the maneuvering he had to do to get Lily the Pink across the wire first. “It was wild,” the jock said. Mott was as happy as he was relieved while watching the replay in the clubhouse. “She runs every time. You can see that from all those seconds,” he said. “She was just able to get there today.”
- As Richard Munk of Funky Munky Stable walked into the winner’s circle after the sixth, he posed a question not often heard around Saratoga. “Do you want to interview me?,” he asked, answering, “Because I’m ready to talk.” Munk had reason to be chatty after 3-year-old Devoted Wildcat won the 6 1/2-furlong race for \$25,000 claimers. Clad in sandals and a Hawaiian shirt, the owner was definitely ready for a celebration. “I thought the trip was great. Gary (Gullo) told me the horse was doing better than when we claimed him and he showed it,” Munk said. The gelding had gone winless in five starts since

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THE SARATOGA SPECIAL

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Saturday —

■ Continued from page 20

ending a run of four straight wins in March, but showed early that he'd be a contender in this one. Starting on the outside post, he broke out of the gate second and secured a slim lead after a 46.01-second half.

The Kentucky-bred built his lead to three lengths in the stretch and galloped home 1 1/2 lengths clear of 11-1 shot Kid Wando, winning in 1:16.83.

"He ran basically the same type of race as when we claimed him, but this time he kept going instead of stopping. I admit I was nervous once we got to mid-stretch, but he had it from there," Munk said. "It was a great way to say goodbye."

The winner was claimed by Steve Asmussen and Clark Brewster.

• Mike Repole had hit a rough patch at the Spa. First his reign as winning Travers owner ended, then his Notacat-butallama placed fourth in the With Anticipation Stakes on Thursday.

To top it all off, the owner came into the seventh with three close seconds in two days. Enough was enough. Two-year-old Micromanage let Repole breathe easy, breaking his maiden in the 7-furlong race by a convincing 5 lengths.

The colt was ahead 2 as they turned for home and as the lead widened, Repole burst out of his box, his orange-and-blue clad family not far behind.

"I'm very relieved to get that one," he said. "We waited to go 7 furlongs with

him and he showed it was no problem. He probably needs to go further. Todd (Pletcher) told me this horse wants a lot more ground."

It was a nice reversal of fortune and role for the owner, who said he felt good with his horse chasing the favorite instead of being chased down for a change.

"Javier (Castellano) got right next to the favorite and Micromanage wanted to go right by him," he said.

Once the Repole family hit the winner's circle, their leader playfully reminded them how to pose for the post-race photo, cracking, "I know we haven't done it in a while, but come on."

Apex was second and the favored Gulfport was third.

• Ramon Dominguez reached another milestone in the fifth when he notched his 60th win of the meet aboard Hillswick.

The jock has had a meet to remember, but he might look back on this moment more fondly than most others this summer because his boys were there to greet him when the win was in the books.

"They don't come to the track often, so it was good to see them there," said Dominguez, who said he was aware of the big 6-0.

It was a strong trip for Hillswick, who broke sharply near the outside and quickly settled off the pace. The Kentucky-bred had the lead at the halfway mark of the 6-furlong optional claimer and built up to a 1 1/2 length advantage as they turned for home. He held off

Isthmus to win by a half-length.

For David Jacobson, who trains the gelding and co-owns him with Winning Move Stable, the plan for Hillswick was simple. Claim him, get him to Saratoga and just watch him win.

The horse did just that, also posting a win here July 25.

"He's just a big, good-looking horse. He'd been running against quality horses," Jacobson said. "It looked like he had a couple of issues along the way, but I was able to fix him up for a couple at Saratoga."

It was two wins and then a goodbye, as the winner was claimed by trainer Rudy Rodriguez and owner Michael Dubb.

• For Jacobson it was 2-for-2 and then "Adieu," but Eddie Kenneally has different ideas after Neatie The Cat won the 11th to secure back-to-back wins. The Anstu Stables homebred broke his maiden here Aug. 12.

"The first race was on the dirt and I think he might be even better on it," Kenneally said.

If that's the case, the gelding sure looked comfortable enough on the grass in this one, run at 5 1/2 furlongs.

Neatie the Cat started from the ninth post in the 12-horse field and held a narrow lead through whole trip after breaking second. The favorite ended up winning by a nose over 14-1 shot Western Tryst in 1:02.13.

"He gutted it out here today," the trainer said. "He's got a future. (Anstu) has come up with some good ones over the years and hopefully this will be another one."

Saratoga Leaders Through Saturday

Jockeys	1st
Ramon Dominguez	60
Javier Castellano	46
Jose Lezcano	33
Joel Rosario	29
John Velazquez	29
Junior Alvarado	23
Julien Leparoux	23
Rosie Napravnik	19
Rajiv Maragh	16
Irad Ortiz, Jr.	15
Cornelio Velasquez	15
Eddie Castro	12

Trainers	1st
Todd Pletcher	35
Chad Brown	27
Steve Asmussen	12
George Weaver	11
William Mott	10
Bruce Levine	9
Gary Contessa	9
Rudy Rodriguez	9
Anthony Dutrow	9
Christophe Clement	8
David Jacobson	8
Kieran McLaughlin	8
Eddie Kenneally	8

The Longshot Kid

Apprentice jockey Wilmer Garcia still has a flat \$2 win-bet profit at the meet through Saturday from his 153 mounts (\$306 investment):

Date	Horse	Trainer	\$2 win
July 26	The Party's Here	Matthew Peebles	\$50.00
July 29	Majestic Raffy	Joe Aquilino	36.00
July 30	Fly Bye Pomeroy	Carlos Martin	27.00
Aug. 1	Count Catamount	Rudy Rodriguez	27.60
Aug. 5	Purely Majestic	Gary Gullo	36.80
Aug. 9	Warrior Up	Rodrigo Ubillo	60.50
Aug. 12	Alykela	Glenn DiSanto	48.60
Aug. 15	Mr Algebra	Anthony Quartarolo	22.40
Aug. 18	Nelson Avenue	Anthony Quartarolo	10.40
Aug. 26	Screenplay	John Terranova	8.80
Sept. 1	A New York Phillie	Rodrigo Ubillo	74.50
Total Payoffs			\$402.60
Total Profit on \$2 win bets on all mounts			96.60



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Coming of Age

Meet winner Teen Pauline seeks Gr. 1 for Asmussen

BY JOE CLANCY

My Happy Face made a lot of people happy when she won a maiden race by more than 21 lengths Friday – owner Michael Dubb, trainer Rudy Rodriguez, jockey Ramon Dominguez, the bettors who hammered her to 1-5. Oh, and Steve Asmussen was pretty pleased too.

He trains Teen Pauline, who starts in today's Spinaway. Stonestreet Stable's 2-year-old filly defeated My Happy Face here July 25, drawing off to win by 4 3/4 lengths and setting a track record of 56 2/5 seconds for 5 furlongs. Based on that effort alone, she warrants her 7-5 morning-line favoritism (while coupled with Dreaming Of Julia) but everything else points to a good performance too.

"You're always concerned about them and the more potential they have the more concerned you are," said Asmussen. "She showed a tremendous amount of talent before that race and she came through with flying colors on raceday. I'm extremely pleased with how she took the race and went back to the track and has trained since."



Dave Harmon

Teen Pauline looks for a good follow-up to her maiden win here July 25.

Teen Pauline breaks from the rail in the field of seven. The Grade 1 lured Schuylerville winner So Many Ways, the only double winner in the field, Saratoga maiden breakers Corail, Dreaming Of Julia and Seasoned Warrior plus Sweet Shirley Mae (fifth in the Schuylerville) and Baby J (third in that Grade 3).

"It's a very good field, fast fillies, it always is," said Asmussen, who won the race in 2009 with Hot Dixie Chick. "Grade 1, Saratoga, 2-year-old fillies. We're very fortunate to be leading her over."

Teen Pauline has worked three times since her debut, including a 6-furlong move Aug. 19. Julien Lepaoux returns for the ride aboard the daughter of Tapit.

Asmussen, who saw her for the first time as a yearling in July 2011, said the dark bay has been near the top of everyone's list since the beginning.

"I got to see her at the farm, which gives you a little more connection to them," said the trainer, who conditioned Teen Pauline's dam Effectual. "Everybody at Stonestreet always loved the filly, she went to the Vinery and Ian Brennan always loved the filly. She's never disappointed anybody."

Teen Pauline will be coupled with Stonestreet's Dreaming Of Julia, who broke her maiden by 10 1/2

See **SPINAWAY** page 25 ►

Spinaway —

■ Continued from page 24

lengths going 6 1/2 furlongs for trainer Todd Pletcher. The daughter of A.P. Indy and Dream Rush will be ridden by John Velazquez from post six.

Maggi Moss and Tony Dutrow bring the 2-for-2 So Many Ways over for the Spinaway. The daughter of Sightseeing broke her maiden at Parx in June and followed up that effort with the Schuylerville triumph on Opening Day. Javier Castellano returns to ride the Pennsylvania-bred from post three at 3-1.

Pletcher also entered Wertheimer and Frere's Corail, who breaks from post two at 12-1. The daughter of Indian Charlie won a 5 1/2-furlong maiden here Aug. 1. Pletcher named Monmouth Park regular Chris DeCarlo to ride as Velazquez moves to Dreaming Of Julia.

Trainer Rick Dutrow taps Ramon Dominguez to ride Baby J, who broke her maiden at Belmont in late June before finishing third (beaten 3 lengths) in the Schuylerville. Paul Pompa owns the daughter of J Be K.

Second to Baby J in their debut, Live Oak Plantation's Seasoned Warrior graduated in a 6-furlong maiden at Saratoga Aug. 12 – winning by almost 4 lengths for trainer Bill Mott and jockey Junior Alvarado (who returns today at 5-2 from post seven).

Ice Wine Stable's Sweet Shirley Mae could not keep pace late in the Schuylerville, but gets another chance for trainer Wesley Ward and Kent Desormeaux at 15-1.



Tod Marks

A maiden winner Aug. 12, Seasoned Warrior makes her third start for trainer Bill Mott.



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Jump Into The Action!



Tod Marks photo

Border Agent

Canadian shipper Excaper takes aim at turf stakes for Black

BY SEAN CLANCY

It's been done before. Canadian-based Excaper attempts to become the latest north-of-the-border shipper to win the Grade 3 Saranac, Monday's co-feature for 3-year-olds going 1 1/8 miles on the turf.

Following the likes of Jambalaya and Marlang, Excaper attracts third choice billing on the morning line in the field 10.

Owned by Richard Kaster and Fred-eric Wieting and trained by Ian Black, Excaper settled into the end stall in Phil Serpe and Eoin Harty's barn, two back from the main track. The big gray colt arrived fresh, bouncing around the shedrow and courtyard Saturday morning for assistant Skippy Bowen.

The two-time winner vaults into the Saranac fresh off an allowance win going a mile at Woodbine. The win continued a career of quality performances dating to his debut win at Woodbine last August.

The athletic son of Exchange Rate won by 3 1/4 lengths while sprinting over the Polytrack. Six weeks later, he led the Grade 3 Summer Stakes before

SARANAC STAKES PREVIEW

yielding to Finale. Back on the Poly-track, Excaper finished fourth in the Grade 3 Grey Stakes before shipping south for the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf where he finished second at 33-1. He completed his 2-year-old season with another strong effort, finishing third to Summer Front and Finale in the Dania Beach.

Freshened until returning for the Charlie Barley Stakes at Woodbine in June, Excaper altered his running style without blinkers for the first time, drifting off the pace before finishing second to Hammers Terror. Three weeks later, he found Patrioticandproud a length better in the Toronto Cup, again drifting off the pace.

Black went back to the blinkers for the allowance and Excaper jumped in the heat early and showed he was ready for the border crossing.

"This race has always been a Canadian favorite. Timing-wise, it works for us," Bowen said. "The first two races (of 2012) were probably our fault, we took the blinkers off and he fell way



Sean Clancy

Excaper eyes a victory in Sunday's Saranac for 3-year-olds on the turf.

back on the turns. The thought was, blinkers off, maybe he'll go even longer, but at some point, you have to go back to what was working."

Emma-Jayne Wilson, the Kentucky-

bred's only jockey in eight career starts, makes the trip from Canada. Nobody in the Black camp is surprised about Excaper developing into a top turf horse.

See **SARANAC** page 30 ►

Irish-breds are winning everywhere ...

Congratulations to Mike Kilber, Pete Bradley, Chad Brown and Watsdachances (IRE), winner of the P.G. Johnson at Saratoga.

Congratulations Anthony Fanticola, Joe Scardino, Mike Mitchell and Obviously (IRE), winner of the Grade II Del Mar Mile at Del Mar.

Good luck to Sovereign Stable on recent purchase, Fearless Jacq (IRE), next stop Grade II Natalma Stakes at Woodbine.

Good luck to Three Chimneys Racing, Trevor Harris, Roger Attfield and Kissable (IRE) in the Glens Falls Monday at Saratoga, going for her second stakes win at the meet.



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Saranac —

■ Continued from page 28

"He opened up our eyes one morning, we worked him on the turf against Stormy Lord, who's a millionaire and Stormy didn't get by him, we were like, 'This horse might be OK,'" Bowen said. "Of course, we ran him in the Summer and then off to the Breeders' Cup. We almost came up for the Hall of Fame but at that point, we thought with putting the blinkers back on we wanted to give him a race at home to know if the blinkers helped. He tow-roped Emma that day and now we're here."

Lucky Chappy attempts to win his first race for Team Valor and Graham Motion. Winless in six tries since being imported from Italy, the Irish-bred is due for a breakout. The son of High Chaparral won two of three in Italy before taking a crack at the Grade 3 Bourbon at Keeneland last fall where he finished third.

A month later, he ran hard to finish fourth in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf. This winter, he chased stablemate Howe Great in the Kitten's Joy at Gulfstream and lost a binocular-slaming nose decision to Daddy Nose Best in the Grade 3 El Camino Real Derby at Golden Gate. Shipped to Meydan for the UAE Derby, he failed to threaten there, finishing ninth of 14.

Motion freshened him and stretched him for the Grade 2 Virginia Derby at Colonial Downs in July. Rallying from sixth in the field of eight, the Irish-bred nailed everybody but Silver Max, falling by a length in the 10-furlong stakes.



Unbridled Command rides a two-race winning streak into the Saranac.

Tod Marks

Alan Garcia keeps the ride aboard the favorite.

Michelle Nihei tabbed John Velazquez for longshot Starforce. Owned and bred by Frank Mayfield, the son of Horse Chestnut won his debut last fall at Churchill Downs before failing in the Dania Beach at Gulfstream. The gray colt finished third in an allowance race switched to a muddy main track earlier in the meet.

Tom Bush stretches out of the New York-bred division with Lakland Farm's

Unbridled Command. The son of Master Command has never finished off the board on the turf and rolls in off two straight turf wins against New York-breds. Ramon Dominguez rides for the first time.

King Kreesa steps out of the New York-bred division for Gerald and Susan Kresa and trainer Jeremiah Englehart. The gelded son of King Cugat won two stakes on the grass at Belmont Park this summer before missing by a neck in the Cab Calloway here August 8. Irad

Ortiz rides the usual pacesetter.

Dale Romans didn't hesitate when the Hall of Fame Stakes came off the grass, sending out Quick Wit to win his third career race for owner Michael Bruder. The son of Sharp Humor won an allowance at Churchill Downs on the turf this spring before finishing fifth in the American Derby in July. Rajiv Maragh retains the ride.

Shkspeare Shaliyah tries to snap a six-race losing streak for Doodnauth Shivmangal. The son of Shakespeare won the Pilgrim last October and has tangled with the best in the class since, failing against the likes of Wrote, Alpha and Summer Front. Eddie Castro rides.

Set The Sail has kept heady company at Charlie Lopresti's stable this meet and makes his first stakes start for owner/breeder Elisabeth Alexander. The gray son of Mizzen Mast broke his maiden at Churchill Downs in May and finished second in an allowance race here July 23.

Bruce Brown tries his third stakes in a row for Spring To The Sky. Owned by Anthony McCarthy, the son of Langfuhr hasn't won since taking his debut and but was in the pace mix of the Hill Prince and Duluth in his two most recent starts. Javier Castellano takes the call.

Bluegrass Hall's Skyring returns to the turf where he's produced a stakes win in the James Murphy at Pimlico and a stakes third in the Grade III American Derby. Trained by Wayne Lukas, the son of English Channel finished sixth in the Hall of Fame Stakes when rained off the turf. Joel Rosario rides from the outside stall.



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MONDAY'S SARATOGA ENTRIES

Monday, September 03.

1ST (12:30PM). \$85,000, MSW, 2 YO, 1 1/16M (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	1	Noble Tune	R. Dominguez	C. Brown	4-1
2	2	Ricochet Court	R. Napravnik	N. Zito	30-1
3	3	So Outspoken	J. Velazquez	T. Pletcher	4-1
4	4	Time Thief Too	J. Espinoza	R. Lerman	20-1
5	5	Draw Two	J. Castellano	M. Nihei	7-2
6	6	Dominante	J. Lezcano	D. Romans	12-1
7	7	Channel Isle	R. Maragh	D. Lukas	8-1
8	8	Metro	J. Ortiz	J. Terranova, II	10-1
9	9	Frac Daddy	A. Garcia	K. McPeck	12-1
10	10	Bye Bye Bernie	E. Prado	K. Breen	3-1
11	AE	Newfound Zapper	K. Desormeaux	W. Ward	4-1
12	AE	Never the End	J. Lezcano	E. Kenneally	10-1
13	AE	Leveraged Loan	C. Velasquez	W. Mott	6-1

2ND (1:02PM). \$49,000, CLM \$25,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Pic 3, Pic 4, Daily Double

1	1	Red Leader	J. Lezcano	R. Rodriguez	12-1
2	2	Concert Stage	R. Dominguez	L. Rice	2-1
3	3	Flamin' Hot	A. Garcia	R. Violette, Jr.	6-1
4	4	Lake Nona	S. Husbands	J. Antonucci	50-1
5	5	Carson Hall	J. Castellano	C. Brown	5-2
6	6	Good Prospect	C. Velasquez	L. Rice	12-1
7	7	Departures	R. Maragh	N. Chatterpaul	20-1
8	8	Bruce Alley	R. Napravnik	S. Benzel	8-1
9	9	Becky's Kitten	J. Alvarado	G. DiPrima	12-1
10	10	Veiled Prophet	J. Espinoza	G. Contessa	8-1

3RD (1:34PM). \$65,000, MSW, 2 YO, 1 1/16M (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	1	West Hills Giant	J. Espinoza	J. Terranova, II	5-1
2	2	Birchwood Road	E. Prado	M. Nihei	5-2
3	3	Arctic Missile	D. Cohen	K. McPeck	10-1
4	4	Acadian Connection	E. Castro	A. Pascucci	15-1
5	5	Holy Endeavor	J. Alvarado	W. Ward	3-1
6	6	Mad With Fever	W. Garcia	R. Lugovich	30-1
7	7	Sunlover	R. Dominguez	D. Romans	6-1
8	8	Sir Leslie	C. Velasquez	P. Serpe	12-1
9	9	Irish Jade	I. Ortiz, Jr.	J. Terranova, II	6-1
10	10	Song of Aspen	A. Lezcano	R. Persaud	20-1
11	MTO	Smooth Bert	I. Ortiz, Jr.	L. Gyarmati	2-1

4TH (2:06PM). \$51,000, CLM \$35,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 7F

Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	8	Photon	A. Garcia	R. Dutrow, Jr.	4-1
1a	9	Goodtime Boy	A. Garcia	R. Dutrow, Jr.	4-1
2	1	Omniscient	S. Bridgmohan	S. Asmussen	4-1
3	2	So Scott	C. Velasquez	D. Jacobson	15-1
4	3	Game Token	E. Castro	R. Schosberg	15-1
5	4	Orsonian	R. Dominguez	R. Rodriguez	5-1
6	5	Settle for Medal	J. Velazquez	R. Schosberg	6-1
7	6	Attractive Ride	K. Desormeaux	M. Scherer	12-1
8	7	Coosada	J. Lezcano	J. Servis	7-2
9	10	Sinorice	R. Napravnik	N. Zito	8-1
10	11	Quiet Power	J. Alvarado	T. Bush	30-1

5TH (2:38PM). \$37,000, CLM \$20,000, 3 & UP, F & M , 5 1/2F (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	1	We Need V L T's	C. Velasquez	L. Rice	5-1
2	2	Lea the Punisher	R. Dominguez	D. Jacobson	3-1
3	3	Salvar	I. Ortiz, Jr.	P. Farro	15-1
4	4	Sansannah	J. Castellano	C. Englehart	8-1
5	5	Rough Winter	E. Prado	P. Kelly	8-1
6	6	Aba Dabber	R. Maragh	B. Brown	15-1
7	7	Sotique	A. Garcia	R. Ribauda	10-1
8	8	Beautifulnightmare	C. Montalvo	M. Friedman	50-1
9	9	Miss Libby	W. Garcia	J. Aquilino	30-1
10	10	Blondecat	R. Napravnik	D. Galluscio	12-1
11	11	Vinda	J. Espinoza	G. Weaver	8-1
12	12	Scott's Aly Cat	E. Castro	K. McLaughlin	7-2
13	AE	Silent Dancing	R. Dominguez	M. Pino	12-1
14	AE	Sister Berta	M. Studart	G. Sciacca	30-1
15	AE	Flying Sappho	I. Ortiz, Jr.	R. Rodriguez	8-1
16	MTO	Landing My Way		L. Rice	4-1

6TH (3:11PM). \$80,000, MSW, 2 YO, 5 1/2F

Exacta, Trifecta, Pic 3, Pic 6, Daily Double

1	1	Stage Street	J. Leparoux	S. Asmussen	5-2
2	2	Clawback	A. Garcia	R. Violette, Jr.	4-1
3	3	Revolutionary	J. Velazquez	T. Pletcher	2-1
4	4	Pirate's Grip	C. Velasquez	R. Nicks	10-1
5	5	Almost English	J. Alvarado	N. Zito	8-1
6	6	Monsignor J	W. Garcia	J. Hertler	20-1
7	7	Always in a Tiz	R. Dominguez	D. Schettino	8-1
8	8	Upswell	E. Castro	J. Toner	12-1
9	AE	Favor Factor	J. Castellano	C. Brown	6-1
10	AE	Nevada	R. Napravnik	T. Pletcher	8-5
11	AE	Casino Day	R. Napravnik	J. Guerrero	8-1

7TH (3:44PM). \$82,000, AOC \$25,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 6 1/2F

Exacta, Trifecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	8	Victory Island	R. Maragh	T. Pletcher	15-1
1a	10	Full of Intent	C. Velasquez	B. Levine	15-1
2	1	My Irish Girl	S. Bridgmohan	E. Kenneally	15-1
3	2	Mizzen Donald	K. Desormeaux	R. Hess, Jr.	15-1
4	3	Brilliant Katie	J. Leparoux	M. Matz	5-1
5	4	Media Starlett	A. Garcia	G. Contessa	7-2
6	5	Evasive Cat	J. Bravo	K. McLaughlin	15-1
7	6	Crespino	J. Lezcano	J. Coronel	8-1
8	7	Sly Warrior	J. Castellano	M. Maker	6-1
9	9	Welcome Guest	R. Dominguez	C. Brown	2-1
10	11	Ode to Sami	I. Ortiz, Jr.	G. Contessa	12-1

8TH (4:18PM). \$150,000, STK-THE GLENS FALLS, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M, 1 3/8M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Pic 3, Pic 4, Daily Double

1	1	Hit It Rich	J. Castellano	C. McGaughey III	7-5
2	2	Bizzy Caroline	J. Lezcano	K. McPeck	6-1
3	3	ThisIsSoulofmine	J. Leparoux	R. Attfield	12-1
4	4	Imperial Pippin	J. Alvarado	W. Mott	10-1
5	5	Kissable (IRE)	R. Velazquez	R. Attfield	9-5
6	6	Bubbly Jane (BRZ)	R. Napravnik	T. Pletcher	8-1
7	MTO	Acting Happy	R. Dominguez	R. Dutrow, Jr.	5-2
8	MTO	Cash for Clunkers	A. Garcia	R. Violette, Jr.	1-1

9TH (4:52PM). \$300,000, STK - THREE CHIMNEYS HOPEFUL, 2 YO, 7F

Exacta, Trifecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	2	Bern Identity	R. Dominguez	K. Breen	5-2
1a	8	Vegas No Show	A. Garcia	K. Breen	5-2
2	3	Lawn Man	J. Castellano	T. Pletcher	7-2
2b	9	Shanghai Bobby	R. Napravnik	T. Pletcher	7-2
3	1	Show Some Magic	J. Leparoux	S. Asmussen	6-1
4	4	Fortify	J. Bravo	K. McLaughlin	4-1
5	5	Majestic Hussar	J. Lezcano	E. Kenneally	8-1
6	6	Royal Art	R. Maragh	D. Lukas	20-1
7	7	Overanalyze	J. Velazquez	T. Pletcher	3-1

10TH (5:26PM). \$87,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, 1M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Daily Double

1	9	Mia Poppy	J. Alvarado	D. Schettino	7-2
1a	AE	Plainview	J. Lezcano	G. DiPrima	7-2
2	1	Unbridled Fire	J. Bravo	K. McLaughlin	3-1
3	2	Fizzano	J. Leparoux	H. Bond	6-1
4	3	Sandyinthesun	D. Davis	R. Davis	50-1
5	4	Late Night Action	I. Ortiz, Jr.	J. Guerrero	20-1
6	5	Never On Time	R. Maragh	T. Pletcher	15-1
7	6	Hebert Hall	J. Castellano	L. Lewis	8-1
8	7	Burn the Mortgage	J. Velazquez	W. Catalano	4-1
9	8	King Kid	R. Dominguez	D. Romans	5-1
10	10	Cajun Breeze	W. Garcia	M. Yates	12-1
11	AE	Manx	R. Maragh	D. Lukas	20-1
12	MTO	The Prize Fighter	I. Ortiz, Jr.	P. Serpe	6-1
13	MTO	Saratoga Snacks	R. Dominguez	G. Sciacca	9-5
14	MTO	Rein King		J. Terranova, II	4-1

11TH (6:00PM). \$38,000, MCL \$25,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta

1	1	Zajal	C. Velasquez	R. Rodriguez	3-1
2	2	Calypto Bob	E. Castro	M. Gorham	20-1
3	3	El Dreamer	J. Ortiz	G. DiSanto	20-1
4	4	Master of Markets	W. Garcia	N. Zito	15-1
5	5	Stormy Acre	R. Dominguez	R. Rodriguez	5-1
6	6	Dendrite	I. Ortiz, Jr.	D. Donk	10-1
7	7	Golden Tornado	R. Napravnik	L. Rice	8-1
8	8	Great Karoo	J. Leparoux	W. Mott	20-1
9	9	Santonio d'Oro	A. Garcia	K. McPeck	7-2
10	10	Hidden Vow	E. Prado	P. Quick	8-1
11	11	Soup A' Fleet	J. Alvarado	J. Orseno	6-1
12	12	King Keene	J. Espinoza	G. Contessa	30-1
13	AE	Griffin Rock	W. Garcia	R. Sedlacek	12-1
14	AE	Magnificent Moon	A. Lezcano	R. DeMola	10-1
15	MTO	Sokitumi Samurai	J. Castellano	J. Parisella	4-1
16	MTO	Sports Day	E. Prado	J. Baker	6-1

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Back for More

Bern Identity eyes Saratoga stakes double in Monday's feature

BY JOE CLANCY

HOPEFUL STAKES PREVIEW

George and Lori Hall came to Saratoga on a date. Now they're married and have three children. The Halls met trainer Kelly Breen at a dinner. Now they own a farm in Kentucky, a dozen broodmares and a racing stable.

Back in 2004, Breen's advice about getting involved focused on shopping for prospects at the Keeneland September yearling sale. The Halls followed suit and bought four horses. Two became stakes winners and the stable has not looked back — winning the 2011 Belmont Stakes with Ruler On Ice and turning up in major races in the East like Monday's Hopeful. The Halls and Breen entered Bern Identity and Vegas No Show, coupled as the 5-2 favorite in the \$300,000 stakes for 2-year-olds.

Bern Identity rides a two-race winning streak, including a victory in the Grade 2 Sanford here July 22. The \$57,000 Keeneland September purchase

rated behind quick fractions, and rolled home late to win by more than a length.

"It's our first win at Saratoga," said George Hall after the Sanford. "We said a long time ago our first win would be a graded stakes race and it was fun to think about. Kelly said the horse looked great; sometimes he acts up a little bit before the race and he was nice and calm."

The paddock behavior translated to a polished effort, which earned the Halls a \$100,000 bonus after a maiden win at Belmont in June. The son of Bernstein stretches to 7 furlongs and gets Saratoga leading jockey Ramon Dominguez as Rosie Napravnik switches to Shanghai Bobby.

Stablemate Vegas No Show shortens up from a Delaware Park maiden win going a mile July 26. Alan Garcia rides the Hard Spun colt.



Tod Marks

Hopeful favorite Bern Identity trains on the main track Saturday morning.

Shanghai Bobby and Lawn Man represent Starlight Racing and trainer Todd Pletcher and are the 7-2 third choice. Shanghai Bobby broke his maiden in April, added the Track Barron Stakes at Belmont in June and missed the Saratoga Special here Aug. 12. Stablemate Lawn Man, also entered in Monmouth Park's Sapling today, won a 6-furlong maiden here July 28. Javier Castellano is named to ride.

Pletcher also has the race's second choice in Overanalyze at 3-1. The son

of Dixie Union broke his maiden Aug. 9 for Repole Stable and is also entered in the Sapling. John Velazquez will ride from post seven.

Trainer eddie Kenneally looks to close a strong meet with a graded stakes score from Joe Witek's homebred Majestic Hussar. The Majestic Warrior colt won a 6-furlong maiden here Aug. 11 and is 8-1 for jockey Jose Lezcano. Godolphin Racing's Fortify exits a 6

See *HOPEFUL* page 37 ►



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Long Hitter

McGaughey's Hit It Rich favored in Monday's Grade 3

BY SEAN CLANCY

GLENS FALLS STAKES PREVIEW

Shug McGaughey has spent the summer, mapping and adapting schedules for his fleet of turf horses. Boisterous to Arlington Park. Data Link to firm turf. Point Of Entry to the Sword Dancer. Air Support to an allowance. And, Hit It Rich to the Glens Falls.

Stuart Janney's homebred finished third in the Grade 2 New York Handicap at the end of June (her sixth consecutive on-the-board finish) and McGaughey needed to make a plan for his three-turn mare.

The Waya at Saratoga, Aug. 6? Too close. Didn't feel right.

The Beverly D at Arlington Park, Aug. 18? Too short. Equal weights.

The Glens Falls at Saratoga, Sept. 3? Perfect.

Hit It Rich drew the 1 hole in a field of six in Monday's Grade 3 stakes going 1 3/8 miles for \$150,000. The 7-5 morning-line favorite should be on or near the lead, trying to fend off the late kick of Waya winner Kissable for Roger Attfield.

See *GLENS FALLS* page 37 ►



Tod Marks

Hit It Rich heads back to the races at Saratoga, scene of an allowance win last year.

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by Joe Clancy

I am a tomato judge. File that under Sentences I Never Thought I'd Write and Jobs I Never Thought I'd Have.

For the last three years, "Uncle" Mike DeSano of the Racetrack Chaplaincy of America has enlisted me to judge the backside tomato contest. It's an honor, even if it threatens to derail a deadline late in the meet.

We traverse Saratoga Race Course by golf cart, checking out plants, meeting grooms and assessing the progress – some good, some not so good. This year, DeSano's list of finalists included plants at the barns of Glenn DiSanto, James Bond, Greentree, Chad Brown, Bill Mott, Bruce Levine and Todd Pletcher. They grew tomatoes in buckets, between round pens, next to dormitories, in the shade, in the sun, in the dirt.

Once again, Brown's groom Marciso Servin took first place with a plant that would make Joe Carcione proud. A native of Michoacan, Mexico (famous for its strawberry fields), Servin produced a plant the size of a Christmas tree and handed us a tomato the size of a softball. There's no secret, he said, though I'm thinking the condensation runoff from the window air conditioner has to help.

Regardless, Servino claims the top prize. As fellow judge Dan Silver of NYRA's media department put it, Servino grew the "Secretariat of tomato plants."

The best part of the day has nothing to do with tomatoes.

I am annually awed by the job done by DeSano and NYRA chaplain Humberto Chavez as we circle the grounds.

They know everybody, converse in Spanish, English, a little Spanglish about horses, tomatoes, life. The tomato contest is just an excuse, just an exercise; the real goal is creating a little bit of community.

"The people on the backside had homes where they did things like this," said DeSano. "They had gardens and things, they gave up part of that to work in the horse industry. It's nice to give them a little feeling of doing something other than taking care of the horses. Maybe they can feel like they're back home again."

Maybe. Tomatoes aren't the only crop growing on the Saratoga backside. Friday, we saw mint, peppers, potatoes, parsley, okra, cucumbers, squash, basil and more. And that's not counting DeSano's semi-public garden toward the far end of Horse Haven (just look for the scarecrow).

A volunteer, DeSano will talk your ear off about pretty much anything, but he cares about the people he serves.

"It's overwhelming for me," he said. "It's just a great feeling, a love of life. I really can't explain it to you, it's just a joy. When you see a smile on someone's face, that's what it's all about. It's very enlightening to me."

Me too.

The tomato contest comes at the end of the meet, when I'm tired, missing my wife, missing my sons, missing some sort of order to the chaos, barely keeping up with the demands for my time, my attention. By the time I get DeSano's call, I just want to go home.

I really don't want to write another story, watch another race, live another deadline.

But Chavez (he's a chaplain, but not a preacher) and DeSano do something to make it worthwhile. They inject a little spirit into the pursuit. They make me think of my sons in college, high school, middle school. They make me think of Sam, my wife, who puts up with missing me for this project. They make me think of all the grooms I've known at all the tracks I've been to.

DeSano and Chavez focus on the community and improving it, making life better for the people connected to the horses that make this whole thing go.

It's a worthwhile pursuit.

They're trying to drive a sense of community in a place that could easily lose it.


Saratoga Race Course opened in 1863, a rich man's game for sure, but one that both appealed to and depended on the masses. The track is still here, with the same formula at its core, but as usual the meet ends with some trepidation. I can't imagine they considered all we're dealing with back in 1863, but perhaps it was similar.

Where's racing going? Who's going to lead it? What needs to be changed? What will this look like next year or the year after?

Take a cue from DeSano and Chavez. Focus on the community. Do right by the people and the horses. The rest will come along. We're all in this together after all.

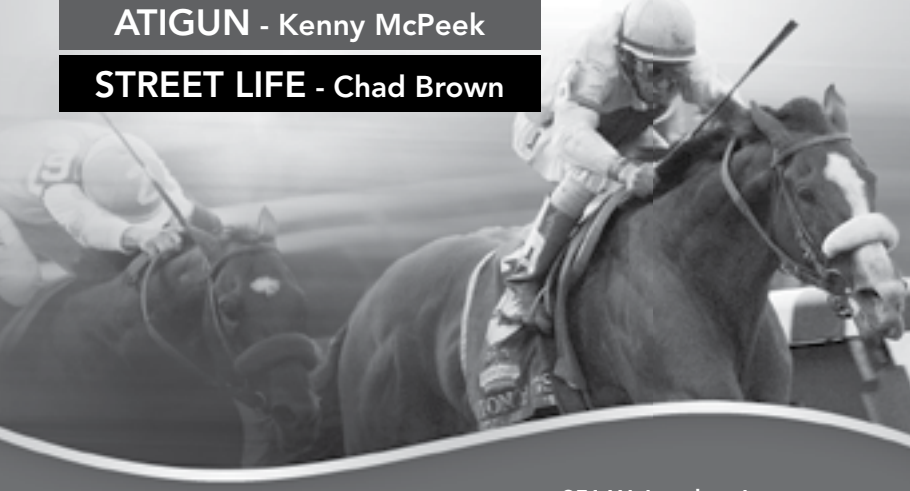
Thoroughbred racing in New York and beyond is trying to survive in a modern world – dealing with a sport blending humans and animals and competition and money and decisions. It's dangerous, it's public, it's full of moving parts.

But maybe, just maybe, it could learn something from two men and a tomato contest.



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Glens Falls —

■ Continued from page 35

gin. Freshened for a spring campaign in New York, the daughter of Smart Strike ran hard to finish second in the Grade 2 Sheepshead Bay and third in the Grade 2 Long Island.

Two months later, she's ready for her third career start on the Saratoga turf.

"I just wanted to wait for the Glens Falls, it's a graded stake," McGaughey said. "We'll see how she runs and make up my mind where I want to go after this, she likes the Polytrack, if I want to run her in the Spinster, that would be fine. If she ran really good, maybe I'd run her back in the Flower Bowl."

Hit It Rich has gradually become a solid stakes horse for McGaughey. After missing nearly a year from August 2010 to July 2011, she's finished worse than third once, when lacking room in the Paris Opera last summer. Her win in the Long Island began a streak of graded stakes starts, producing two wins, two seconds and a third.

Javier Castellano rides for the sixth consecutive time.

"She's come along great, once we got her stretched out, the Long Island Handicap showed us what she wanted to do," McGaughey said. "I'm interested in running her, I like her, she's a pretty straightforward kind of filly, point her and she goes. Likes to train, likes to gallop."

Attfield has already enjoyed a memorable Saratoga. The British-born, Canadian-based trainer was inducted into the Hall of Fame Aug. 10 four days after winning the Waya with Kissable. The Irish-bred filly returns for Three Chimneys Racing and Trevor Harris, seeking her third career win and first graded stakes win. John Velazquez engineered a 4-length win in the Waya and rides again at 9-5.

Attfield is also represented by Charles Fipke's homebred Thislilsoul of mine, a two-time winner at Woodbine who most recently took a 9-furlong allowance. The 5-year-old daughter of Perfect Soul has tried open stakes three times without success but exits her best career race. Julien Leparoux rides.

Bill Mott tried Kissable with Star-former in the Waya and will try again with another Juddmonte homebred Imperial Pippin. The daughter of Empire Maker made six starts in Britain, attaining one victory against maidens at Newbury. Since coming to America, she finished sixth on the turf at Gulfstream Park, won a dirt allowance at Monmouth and finished fifth here going 9 furlongs on the dirt. She makes her return to the turf under Junior Alvarado.

Bizzy Caroline finished third in the Waya after leading the nine-horse field for most of the mile and a half journey over yielding turf. Owned and bred by Catesby Clay, the daughter of Afleet Alex won the Grade III Mint Julep at Churchill Downs in June. Jose Lezcano rides for trainer Ken McPeck.

Haras Interlagos' Bubbly Jane completes the field for trainer Todd Pletcher and jockey Rosie Napravnik. The Brazilian-bred daughter of Yaghi rides a seven-race losing streak dating back to 2009. She finished fourth behind Kissable in the Waya in her most recent start. A 7-year-old mare, she won the Oaks in her homeland in 2008 and picked up two minor stakes at Belmont in 2009.




Tod Marks
Majestic Hussar
comes in to the
Hopeful off an
easy maiden win
for trainer Eddie
Kenneally.

Hopeful —

■ Continued from page 34

1/2-furlong maiden win here Aug. 4 for trainer Kiaran McLaughlin. Joe Bravo returns to ride at 4-1. Trainer Steve Asmussen entered Show Some Magic, who makes his fifth start for J. Kirk and Judy Robinson. The Any Given Saturday colt finished second to Saratoga Special winner Spurious Precision here July 21 and came back to win a maiden race Aug. 16. Julien Leparoux rides at 6-1. D. Wayne Lukas scratched Royal Art from a maiden race Saturday. The Afleet Alex colt, owned by Robert Baker and William Mack, gets Rajiv Maragh and is 20-1 after a third here going 5 furlongs Aug. 9.



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by Sean Clancy

Once more unto the breach . . .

The last page, the last words of another season of The Saratoga Special. You'd think I'd have this one in the vault, canned months ago, it's easy, say goodbye in 800 words, I do it every year. But, alas, it's the last thing I write for the 12th consecutive year.

I have to taste blood. It's down to the three of us. Erin McNamee finishes designing the Forego and Woodward pages. Joe steers the ship, flipping photos, editing copy, still an hour away from writing his goodbye column. And I stare at a blank screen, the words hiding in the dark. I know I'm in trouble when I check the word count and I'm toiling in the 300s, the ditch is far from dug. After 12 years, I know they are there, somewhere, how long it takes to find them is the question.

It's 11:37 p.m. Time ticks. A cover band plays music that should never have been covered. Cops question another drunk. An Italian Ice van parks on the corner of Broadway and Caroline. A blue-haired hippie walks with his skateboard tucked under his arm. Another Saturday night, summer's over. Somewhere on the other side of Union Avenue, the providers rest.

Today's stars, Dominus, Emcee and To Honor And Serve chill from jobs well done. Tomorrow's stars chill

for jobs ahead. I'll miss the horses. I always think of them, so oblivious to their enormity, when I think of the rapture of Saratoga.

Two more days of racing, then summer's over. As I was reminded by Betsy Kuhn's column, "Bye Union Ave more than a name," written in 2009 and given to me by one of our first readers, Jimmy Dintino and his wife at the races Friday, when you get up to go, go.

Kuhn, put it more eloquently:

In the old days, when the meeting ended before Labor Day, I remember being at the track for the last weekend of racing. I could see signs of barns packing up, cases and trunks open and ready for the move. It was sad. It wasn't just me leaving; it was everyone.

A fellow who used to work at Sperry's once described the onset of fall in Saratoga; Labor Day arrives, he said, and boom: as if on cue, the days turn chilly and the leaves change color. Even in August you see the occasional tree along the Northway showing splotches of red. Red! In August!

There's just no getting around it: summer has to end, the Saratoga race meeting has to come to a close, and we all have to simply move on with our lives. I have found the only way to leave Saratoga is to face forward, both physically and mentally, and keep driving. You can't dwell on the fact that you're leaving; you can't allow yourself any wistfulness. You have to march on out of Paradise and trust that you'll be back.

Then you can say, with gratitude, Hello Union Ave.

Leaving Saratoga, for me, adds another year to my life. Birthdays mean nothing to me.

The end of Saratoga is how I mark time, how I keep score.

This year, my fingers hurt. My elbows have desk burn. I have caffeine stomach. I have holes in my soles. My nerves are shot. My patience gone.

For me, it's time to hug the family, ride a horse, read the paper, pay bills, eat a home-cooked meal, do the dishes, hit the snooze button, mow the grass (who am I kidding?), go for a run, pick up the mail at the post office, read The Lorax to Miles, lie on the couch at least for an afternoon.

If you're looking for me after Monday, you'll have a better chance at hiring a plane and sky writing over the Blue Ridge Mountains than getting me on my cell phone.

I'll be in the yard, playing with Miles. Challenger Soccer, ages 3-6, starts Thursday.

I leave satisfied. Tired, but satisfied.

I think of what Bill Mott said after winning the Woodward with To Honor And Serve, after spending 22 minutes detailing his thought process, the nuances of turning a fourth in the Suburban to a win in the Woodward, the art of keeping a horse's head straight by starting him off with the pony, the confidence to back off and walk a horse for a week while the pressure is building and your heart is telling you to kick on while your brain is telling you to back off.

"That's what it's all about, if you want the personal self satisfaction," Mott said. "Even if you get beat, you know, 'Well, I tried.' "

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